

SOS Carefree Times

2015 Summer Edition

Fat Harold



June 13, 1933
May 22, 2015



S.O.S. President Ron Whisenant

Hello Everyone!

Summer time is calling me! The heat has arrived after such a short spring, but it is a beautiful time of the year. Get out with your friends and family and enjoy the summer months at the beach, the lake, or wherever your favorite place is located and enjoy life

and all of the many things that it entails.

The 2015 Spring Safari exceeded all expectations. It was a slow start to the event, but finished with great numbers in a full throttle ahead fashion. The weather was cooperative and sun and fun were the rewards for all. It was an SOS member reunion well attended. The SOS club owners were very appreciative of everyone's support while here in Ocean Drive Beach. SOS Spring Safari was another record event and showed its pride and character with another great parade down Main St. The ACSC shag clubs exhibited their talents throughout the parade with each of their entry's. Congratulations to all of the winners. Thank you Don David for your continued devotion to this event making it one of the jewels in the SOS crown.

On a sad note, the shag world lost one of its great Icons. Fat Harold Bessent passed away after a long illness. He was one of the pioneers in the shag world that helped to promote the shag dance, the music, and the lifestyle into this world of Ocean Drive Beach, North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and beyond. Fat Harold promoted this dance and music, and his Fat Harold's Beach Club far and wide all over the USA. He was a great friend to many who knew him on a personal level, and he was a friend and supporter of the ACSC and SOS. His efforts were too many to list on behalf of our beloved dance and music. His love of kids fighting cancer lead to fund raising to support Camp Kemo. This event with the help of the O D Shag Club, his employees, his friends and patrons. The event so successful that every child that wanted to go to camp had the opportunity with Fat Harold's Beach Club paving the way. Fat Harold was a large man with a large heart, and he was bigger than life in so many ways. I am proud to say that he was a friend.

Fall Migration will be September 18-27th. The Enhancement committee has a great line up for Fun Sunday/Fun Monday events. You won't want to miss this event. Fall Migration is the Grand party of SOS, and is the last fling of the summer. Make your plans to attend this fantastic party. Definitely buy a raffle ticket. This is what pays for all of the entertainment, and you will have a chance to win big cash.

Good Luck!

Ron



SOS Board Chairperson Helen Still

Hello everyone,

Spring SOS was well attended especially on the last weekend. We had some rain during the week and we were very worried about it raining during the

parade. Since it is a rain or shine parade we were prepared to get wet, but it turned out just perfect. We appreciate the effort of Don David and his team to pull off this fabulous, wonderful and super fun parade. Job well done!

As customary the SOS Board of Directors and the ACSC Officers served lunch to over 125 public safety employees during Spring SOS. These folks are always helpful during our events and especially the SOS parade and Fun Sunday/Fun Monday. We appreciate the partnership we have with the City of North Myrtle Beach and this is our way of saying thank you.

Please remember our summer workshop July 10 - 12, which will be held in the Hyatt Dulles in Herndon, VA. This is a very nice hotel and you will most certainly want to make your reservations and get your ticket to the workshop before June 17th, because the price will increase after that date. Northern Virginia Shag Club members are really working hard to provide a great workshop for us. There are so many interesting places and things to see in that area that a couple of extra nights may be in order

We can certainly say that summer is officially here with 100 degree temperatures. I wonder what it will be like during Fall Migration? Once again the Enhancement Committee will put on another Fun Sunday/Fun Monday for your enjoyment. It is very nice to enjoy having the bands in the street, but as we all know they have to get paid. This is why the sale of Fun Monday tickets is so important. We need everyone's help in getting these tickets sold. Each club president should have Fun Monday tickets. Please get your ticket through your club, if possible, in order for the seller of the ticket to receive some money too, if your ticket is pulled. We will also have people selling these tickets during the first weekend up until we get ready to draw the winning tickets. You have a chance to win \$7,500, 2,000, 1,000, 500, and 250. Remember you can also let your club invest in purchasing some of these tickets. Wouldn't that give your club a financial boost to win some of this money? Fun Sunday/Fun Monday information is on www.shagdance.com for your review.

We have a lot of shag events going on during the summer months, so again you can go to www.shagdance.com and look under ACSC club parties to get the latest information. In addition there is a wealth of information on shagdance.com so make our SOS website your go to location for information.

This shag lifestyle is a wonderful and fun thing. It has brought together so many fantastic people who we can now call our friends. We thank you for the support you show to our board and officers. The SOS Organization is a group of shaggers and music lovers who have become a family of friends.

Have a wonderful summer, enjoy your family and be kind to someone today. Be safe in your travels.

Helen



ACSC Chairman Ken Akin

What another successful 2015 Spring SOS with overwhelming SOS card sales, excited crowds in all the participating clubs and the SOS Parade overflowing with brilliant ideas, costumes and participants. The SOS parade had a tad bit of rain but it did not dampen the

spirits of participants or observers. Congratulations to all the parade winners! The SOS Company Store was packed almost every day with customers and a lot of merchandise was bought, worn at SOS and left NMB packed in suitcases ready for next the visit to NMB. After every SOS or Mid-Winter, I always think--- it can't get any better--- but---guess what---it does. Now that everyone has returned home and recovered from SOS, it is time to begin family vacations with family and friends and make plans for attending the ACSC Workshop in Northern Virginia and SOS in September. Wonderful entertainers appearing on Fun Sunday and Fun Monday during Fall SOS will be Blues Brothers Revue, The Entertainers, Too Much Sylvia, Fantastic Shakers and Jim Quick & Coastline.

The Northern Virginia Shag Club will be the hosts for the ACSC Summer Workshop on July 10-12, 2015 at the Hyatt Dulles in Herndon, Virginia. The Northern Virginia Shag Club has been planning many months for this workshop weekend of entertainment for ACSC clubs presidents or their designees. The ACSC Workshop participants traveling to their area will have access to many sites of interest. The ACSC Agenda for the Saturday morning meeting spotlights the history of ACSC and SOS and will be presented by very knowledgeable speakers who have been associated with this organization for many years. Contact person for the Northern Virginia Shag Club workshop is Dave Bushey at dbushey@gmail.com.

Jr. SOS will be July 14 - 19, 2015 in North Myrtle Beach. It is important that we support our junior shag dancers because they are the future preservers of the Shag. Jr. SOS attendance has grown every year and has hundreds of juniors already registered for this year. Jr. SOS week would be a perfect time to have a family vacation at North Myrtle Beach and include your children and grandchildren. Please support all those individuals who show their dedication to the juniors and spend their time working with these juniors. Donations of shag shoes, new or slightly used, to the Ellen Taylor Foundation for Junior Shaggers is another way to assist the juniors. I contribute my slightly used shag shoes to this organization as often as possible.

While attending the USA Grand National Dance Championships in Atlanta over the Memorial Day Weekend I observed the junior shag dancers in all their competitions. This enormous group of talented junior dancers both dancing as couples and in team competitions was overwhelming.

Have an enjoyable summer! As always, questions or concerns of me-contact me by email at kjakin13@gmail.com or cell at 803-640-3567.

Ken



ACSC Vice President Robin Morley

Greetings Shaggers,

Summertime is upon us and I know that you have a busy calendar of events planned. First and foremost, please be safe in your travels. While visiting www.shagdance.com, reading newsletters and keeping up with events I once again am amazed at the time, hard work and generosity that shaggers share. The charities

and fundraisers that our ACSC clubs participate in is a true gift of love and dedication.

Many of you will be traveling this summer to North Myrtle Beach to our shaggers' paradise. Jr. SOS will be July 14-19, 2015. This is truly an event to add to your bucket list if you have never attended. Super Fun for all ages! Also while in North Myrtle Beach please make an effort to tour the North Myrtle Beach Museum. I promise you will enjoy your visit while learning more about our history of shag.

The ACSC workshop will be hosted by North Virginia Shag Club. I must say that we are looking forward to traveling north to visit with our ACSC club. Our many Thanks to NVSC for their hospitality and hard work.

While you are out and about in your travels, please make an effort to search out an area shag club and visit. Shaggers are friendly and loving folks and you will be greeted and welcomed with smiles and open arms. Enjoy your time with family and friends this summer and always remember to DANCE!

Robin

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Without the help of everyone who contributed, this paper would still be Just Another Newsletter. Thank You!!



ACSC Secretary Lisa Myers Caveny

Well...The warm sunny days of Summer have finally arrived, and I've already began spending my weekends along the coast. I work long hours during the week in the upstate of SC, and reward myself by spending my weekends with my toes in the sand and beach music in the air, along the shore at North Myrtle Beach! One might say, that I work for trips to the beach, instead of food!!

There's something so soothing about the sound of the ocean waves. And of course...I love seeing many of you on Main Street, somewhere between Dairy King and Hoskins!!

By the time this Summer Edition of the Carefree Times arrives at your home, our Summer Workshop will be underway. I am looking forward to visiting the areas of Hearndon, VA and Washington, DC in July. This summer's meeting is hosted by the Northern Virginia Shag Club. I look forward to meeting more of their shag club members and guests at this event. Our annual workshop moves each year to give any shag club in our Association an opportunity to showcase their shag club and their members. This workshop is sure to be a crowd pleaser with a very patriotic theme...as we are surrounded by so much history...our Nation's Capitol, the White House and so much of our American History. We, as shaggers, have history too...History of our dance, our Association, SOS, our respective shag clubs, our ICONS, the SOS Parade, Fun Sunday/Fun Monday, the Company Store, the Carefree Times, www.shagdance.com and all that makes up our love of our state dance, the Shag. It all started with an idea, hard work, dedication and a willingness to work. Your ACSC and SOS Board Members work very hard in planning for a bright future, all the while with great respect to our past. The 2015 ACSC Summer Workshop is a great place to join in the fun of learning more about our Association and it's remarkable history. If you would like to know more about participating in any upcoming workshops, please ask your club President for details or any ACSC/SOS Board Member.

If I miss seeing you at the workshop, then I hope to see you over the Summer, on a dance floor somewhere between here and the beach. I thank you for the opportunity to serve on the ACSC/SOS Board.

Warmest regards,

Lisa

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S.O.S. Janet Harrold

I will start this off and say that Harold Bessent is missed and will be always. He made his mark on our shag life here and brought many others to SOS. For many years he visited the ACSC events and set up a hospitality suite during their event which I always enjoyed and got to meet lots of friends that still come to SOS, moved here and attend other shag events. Harold had the first junior shag contest at Harolds Across The Street, a Director on the Hall of Fame Foundation for approximately ten years, made many huge donations to Camp Kemo and other charities locally. I have worked for Harold since I moved to the beach in 1985. Mostly coordinating shag contests, teaching lessons, I believe through the years I did a little bit of everything. He was a very fair person and treated his employees wonderful...as most of you can see the same employees have been with him for many years and are still there.

Harold Worley has kept Fat Harolds Beach Club running since Harold Bessent was not able to. He has made many renovations and the club looks wonderful and cool. So many thanks and kudos go to Mr. Worley!!! So please visit as you all do to keep Fat Harolds legacy going forever!!!

The HOT weather has already hit but hopefully by the Fall Migration is will cool down somewhat for all. All the SOS shag clubs will be ready for the Fall Migration again having Fun Sunday and Fun Monday with your favorite bands.

Many of you love receiving the two mail outs and picking up the hand out issues when you attend Spring and Fall SOS. The Carefree Times has become a collector's item for many collecting the papers since the get go. **WE HAVE MANY SPONSORS AND ADVERTISERS THAT HAVE MADE THIS PUBLICATION POSSIBLE FOR ALL OF YOU. WHILE YOU ARE IN THIS AREA PLEASE PATRONIZE THEM FOR THEIR DISCOUNTS....MANY GIVE DISCOUNTS YEAR AROUND IF YOU PRESENT YOUR SOS MEMBERSHIP CARD. THERE ARE MANY RESTAURANTS, SHOPPING, REAL ESTATE, AND VARIOUS OTHERS FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE.....DON'T FORGET THEM!!!**

Have a wonderful summer, keep cool, and see you in the Fall. Remember keep smiling you may show up in the next issue. "Remember you are making memories when you think you are just having fun"

Janet

FROM THE FARM. NOT THE LAB.

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THANKS TO THE FAT MAN

A cold beer in my hand just steps from the sand, he provided in the greatest of clubs. I know it was just suds, shared with my buds, but it was just one of the gifts I found in the house that Harold built.

The rhythm and blues tunes float on beach winds like balloons from the street down to the dock. From smooth cool grooves to smokin' hot rock, his friends got to dance round the clock. For this I thank the Fat Man.

How many hands have I taken and danced till my poor legs were left shakin'? It is hard for me to know. Though I can certainly attest that I gave it my best to have fun in the house that Harold built.

All the friends under the sun showing fresh summer tans, gather at HOTOS with cold drink in their hands. He provided the place. He provided the fun. I think he even brought in the sun. He did it with grace, a smile on his face, and for each lady he had a sly wink. For this I thank the Fat Man.

Good times were had and memories were made that are certainly stronger than steel. I have deeply been changed by how they still make me feel. They were forged by his love, as if he was called from above and we will keep them in the house that Harold built.

For decades the legend provided the party and held open the doors to the hall. But it's not about bricks, it's not about mortar, or even each memory covered wall. The story he penned was written by each new friend which really included us all. For this I thank the Fat Man.

He gave us cool shade. A smooth dance floor he made and his palace would jump and hop. He lived a rich life with every Bo and Shug, the names he called us all. The man may be gone but his memory lives on, in the house that Harold built.

By Chris Jestes in Fond Memory of the Fat Harold Bessent



IT'S A BLAST From the PAST



Photos contributed by Evelyn Munson

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SOS - Society of Stranders

facebook

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group +

Our facebook group keeps growing, we have over 7,300 members now. I am the administrator of the group page and I intend to keep our shaggers well informed with SOS schedules, updates, photos and events. We limit our advertising on the facebook page to the participating partner SOS clubs which is OD Resort, OD Arcade, Fat Harolds, Pirates Cove, and Ducks. We want to encourage your SHAG CLUB to post their events and if you have any problems uploading, please contact me. Be sure to visit our SOS website for all shag related info as well.

Hope to see you
on Facebook,
Vickie Harrison



SOS PHOTOGRAPHY TEAMWORK

Thanks for all the hard work!



Paul Harrison

I was not able to be out a lot for SOS and these wonderful people pitched in and gave you over 4,000 photos! Thank you all so much...you ROCK!

Vickie Harrison
SOS Photographer



Mary Gregory



Kay Hughes



Susie & Gil
Bradley



Lisa Caveny



After the Parade....the Fun continues



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Da Judges !!

Da Leader



Before the Parade...
the fun begins !!!



2015

July 10-12

Summer Workshop

July 14-19

Junior SOS

Sept 18-27

Fall Migration

2016

Jan 15-17

Mid-Winter/Workshop

April 15-24

Spring Safari

July 8-10

Summer Workshop

July 12-17

Junior SOS

Sept 16-25

Fall Migration

2017

Jan 13-15

Mid-Winter/Workshop

April 21-30

Spring Safari

July 14-16

Summer Workshop

July 18-23

Junior SOS

Sept 15-24

Fall Migration

South Carolina
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Fun in
the Sun

Come join thousands of shaggers
for the

2014 SOS Fall Migration

SEPTEMBER 18-27

Close out Summer with exciting
nightlife, shag lessons, and two
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The Shoe Center**

Fun Monday



The Official Blues Brothers Revue

There have been many imitators, but there is only one duo in North America sanctioned by Dan Aykroyd and Judith Belushi to don the official hat and sunglasses and walk in the legendary footsteps of Jake and Elwood Blues. Discovered in Las Vegas, performers Wayne Catania and Kieron Lafferty capture the infectious humor and unbridled spirit of the Blues Brothers like no one since John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd walked the stage. Backed by a powerhouse band, they'll give you a show to remember, packed with classic hits from the Blues Brothers catalog, including *Soul Man*, *Rubber Biscuit*, *Sweet Home Chicago*, and more.



The Entertainers



too MUCH Sylvia

SOS Fun Monday Drawing

1st Ticket Drawn \$7,500 2nd Ticket Drawn \$2,000
3rd Ticket Drawn \$1,000 4th Ticket Drawn \$500 5th Ticket Drawn \$250



TWO
BLONDES
on
the BEACH
Funk Shag Meet



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O.D. Shag Club 4-19-15
Pay to the order of Camp Kemo \$1,000.00
One Thousand and 00/100 DOLLARS
Presented by O.D. Shag Club

3
CAMP KEMO

North Myrtle Beach Parks & Recreation



Free Summer Concerts 7PM - 9PM



3 Locations

Main Street | 202 Main Street, NMB

Horseshoe | 11 S. Ocean Blvd, NMB

NMB Park & Sports Complex - Sandhills Bank Amphitheater
150 Citizens Circle, Little River

Thursday, **July 2** - (Horseshoe)

Fat Jack Band
(Beach/Motown)

Thursday, **July 9** - (Main Street)

Southern Blue
(Variety/Classic Rock)

Thursday, **July 16** - (Horseshoe)

Castaways
(Beach)

Friday, **July 17** - (PSC)

Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot
(Beach/Variety)

Thursday, **July 23** - (Main Street)

The Deluge
(Blues/Variety)

Thursday, **July 30** - (Horseshoe)

Hip Pocket
(Beach/Variety)

Thursday, **August 6** - (Main Street)

Too Much Sylvia
(Variety)

Thursday, **August 13** - (Horseshoe)

Entertainers (Beach)

Thursday, **August 20** - (Main Street)

The Necessary Band
(Variety/Classic Rock)

Friday, **August 21** - (PSC)

Painted Man
(R&B/Variety)

Thursday, **August 27** - (Horseshoe)

The Fantastic Shakers
(Beach)

Thursday, **September 3** - (Main Street)

Tastes Like Chicken
(Variety)

Thursday, **September 10** - (Horseshoe)

Jim Quick & Coastline
(Beach)

Thursday, **September 17** - (Main Street)

Tru Sol
(Motown/Variety)

Friday, **September 18** - (PSC)

Nantuckett
(Classic Rock)

Thursday, **September 24** - (Horseshoe)

Envision
(Beach/Motown)

Thursday, **October 1** - (Horseshoe)

Marsha Morgan Band
(Beach)

Movies @ McLean

McLean Park | 93 Oak Drive, NMB
Spend Friday evening watching a movie under the stars. All movies shown are PG rated. All movies are subject to change depending upon availability. Movies will begin 15 minutes after sunset. Bring your beach chair; enjoy popcorn and a drink from the North Myrtle Beach Lions Club.

Open to all ages | Free
All movies begin 15 minutes after sunset

THE LEGO MOVIE

7/10/15 @ 8:45 pm, PG

DISNEY'S CINDERELLA (2015)

8/14/15 @ 8:30 pm, PG

PADDINGTON

9/9/15 @ 7:00 pm, PG

A special thank you to Horry County Parks and Recreation for partnering on the movie series.



Irish Italian International Festival

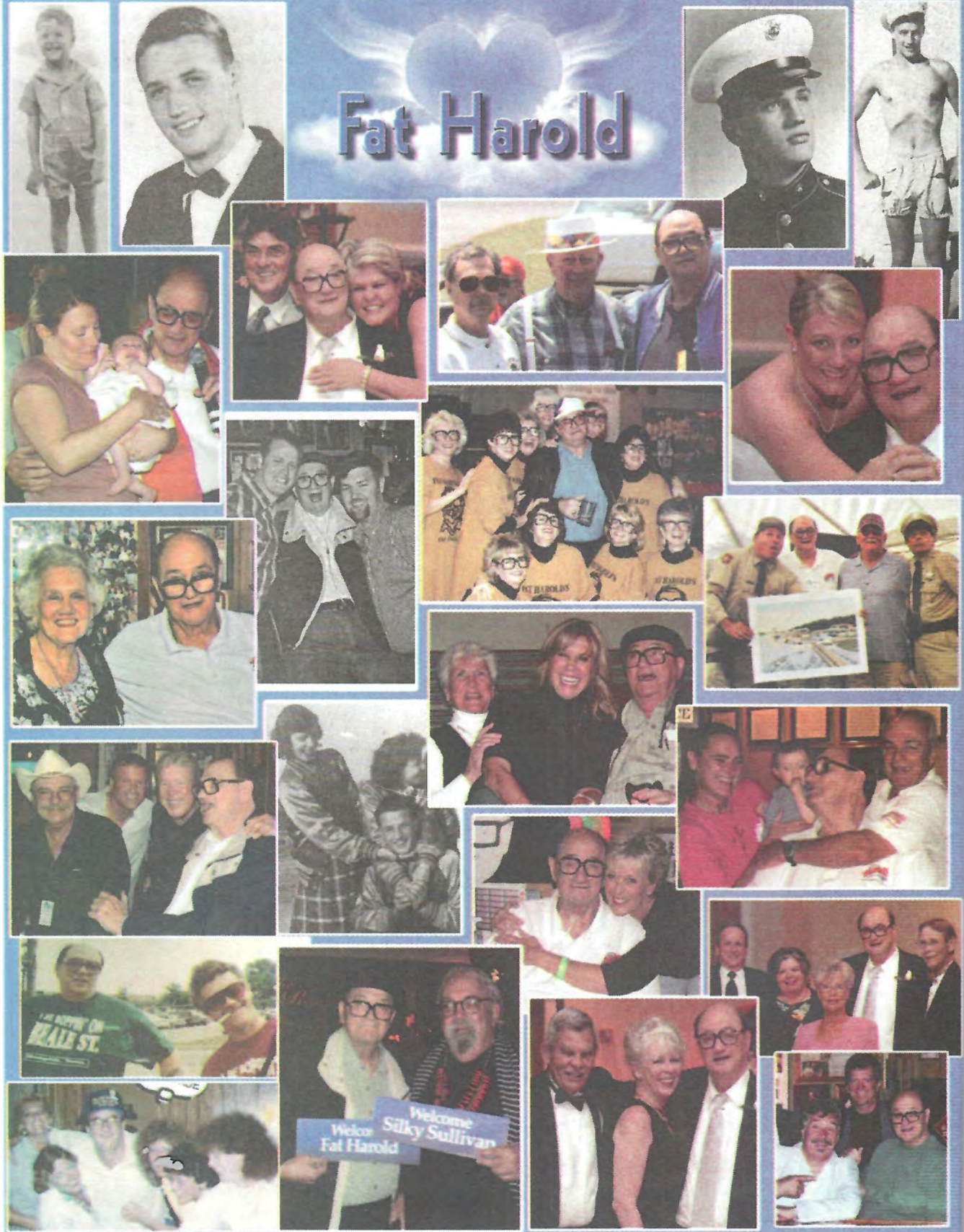
Saturday, September 26, 2015 • Main Street, North Myrtle Beach • 10 AM - 4 PM

Live music, local restaurants, arts and crafts, and a children's area are just a few events at the Irish Italian International Festival of North Myrtle Beach, ensuring that you will have a good time. Live music ranging from bagpipes, street performers and two stages of live entertainment will keep the cultural blend of this festival vibrant all day.

Call (843) 280-5594, Ext 3 for Day of Event Weather Information updates
Facebook.com/NMBParksandRec | 843.280.5584 | <http://Parks.NMB.US>



Fat Harold





"FAT HAROLD" BESSENT

JUNE 13, 1933 - MAY 22, 2015

Harold Milton Bessent affectionately known to all as "Fat Harold" joined The Shadow Shaggers on that Golden Dance floor in heaven around 2:30 pm, Friday afternoon, May 22nd at home surrounded by love, after a long illness. "Fat Harold" was born on June 13th, 1933 in Little River, South Carolina to Bill and Frances (Ellis) Bessent.

He was predeceased by his maternal grandparents, Kellan and Julia Bessent and his paternal grandparents, J. W. and Annie Ellis. He was also predeceased by a sister Willie Frances Gregory and his beloved grandson David Bessent, Jr. He is survived by his sisters Betty Amick of Chapin, SC; Marcella Willis of Little River, SC and a brother George Bessent of Little River, SC. His children, Mariellen Bessent-Minor (Chris) of Greenville, SC; Laura Todd (Tony) of Loris, SC and a son, David Bessent of Myrtle Beach, SC. He is also survived by his beautiful fiancée and caregiver Hulda Wood of Little River, SC and Dallas, Texas. "Fat Harold" had several grandchildren which he adored; Maricatherine Minor, Harold Luke Minor, Christina Bessent, Anson Todd and Brittany Mitchell as well as great grandchildren; Jacob Hopkins, Jaya Mitchell and Joslyn Mitchell. "Fat Harold" also had many nieces and nephews who called him "Uncle Buddy". Also his "Other Brother" Wilson (Buddy) Owens of Little River, SC and his adopted girls, Lulu Quick-Rigsby, Shannon Briggs, Debbie Coleman, Terry Jensen, Brenda Rosser and Joy Thompson of Fat Harold's Beach Club and HOTO's.

After doing his time in the United States Marine Corps during the Korean Conflict, Harold came back and lived in Florida for a brief time and married his wife, Mary. Harold moved back to North Myrtle Beach with kids in tow and joined Pappy and Buddy at The Spanish Galleon. Fat Harold was co-owner of Harold's Across the Street with his new wife Ann Lewis Bessent (now deceased), The Pad, Harold and Anne's Swinging 50's Lounge, The 19th Hole, Harold's at Little River and more recently Fat Harold's Beach Club and Harold's on the Ocean (HOTO's) where he became known as The King of Shag. He always told everyone he had the best employees in the whole wide world.

Fat Harold was instrumental in keeping The Shag alive by helping it to get recognized as South Carolina's State Dance. He attended shag clubs and events near and far to promote the


Shag and was one of the first to say "Bring it on" when SOS was born. He had shag contests for the adults and with the suggestion of friends was instrumental in the birth of The Junior Shaggers. With the Shag being his first love besides his family he decided way back then that The Shag would never die. He would see to that and that he did.

Harold was a good man and would give you the shirt off of his back. He was a Shriner, a Mason, a member of many local clubs, a boat captain and loved his family very much. Grief struck when his grandson Little David developed Cancer. It was at this time that Harold became involved with Camp Kemo. Harold Bessent has gotten many stars in his crown for his work with "His Kids". He was on the board at The Palmetto Foundation and has been awarded The Order of the Palmetto, The Aflac Palmetto Foundation Award for his generosity for years of service and monetary donations to Camp Kemo. He received the key to the City of NMB and June 13th has been proclaimed Fat Harold Day by Mayor Marilyn Hatley of NMB. He was instrumental in starting the first OD Shag Club which is the largest in the ASCA. He was on the Hall of Fame Foundation Board, Owner of The Living Legends and DJ Hall of Fame. He received the SOS "ICON" award several years ago. He was inducted to The Shaggers Hall of Fame. He received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Carolina Beach Music Awards in November of 2014 and all of the awards given in the future will be The Fat Harold Bessent Lifetime Achievement Award. He was awarded Best Beach Music Club for 13 years before he graciously declined nominations. He also received numerous awards at HOTO's for Best Show Club and Best Summer Concert Series for many years. He has done so much and asked for so little for so long. His accomplishments are beyond measure.

The family would like to extend their deepest thanks to his caregivers: Wayne Rigsby, Paulette King, Kathy Jordan, his son-in-law, Tony Todd, Charlie Knotts, Trina, Brenda, Beacon Hospice, Embrace Hospice, all of his doctors and nurses and his extended family and friends who sat in when needed. He loved you all.

Having said all of this, his wishes are no flowers, they die. "Let my kids at Camp Kemo bloom as long as they can", by sending your condolences as donations to Camp Kemo C/O Fat Harold's Beach Club, 212 Main Street, North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29582.

Note: The obituary was written with Love by
Lulu Quick-Rigsby

 **FAT HAROLD'S CELEBRATION OF LIFE**



Tribute to a Jukebox Giant



In The Land of Shag
Lived Fat Harold,
The Jukebox Giant.

He called himself "Fat"
For a name like that
Was easy to remember.

Giants choose their names
Not to be forgotten.

In later years,
He did grow heavy.
Though as a youth
In uniform,
A trim and tall Marine,
He was not called Fat.
He was Big Harold,
From Little River,
A border town,
Between the Carolinas,
In The Land of Shag,
Down South.

Like all good boys
He came of age
Drinking beer,
Chasing girls,
And dancing.

Then he took to arms,
Joined
The Leatherneck Battalions,
trained on Paris Island,
Grew tougher,
Leaner, meaner.

He went in ships
To practice war
On European beaches.

Given leave
To wander ancient cities,
He found himself
In barrooms, far from home,
And homesick.

A future jukebox giant,
He dreamed of a beer joint
All his own,
And friends
To share a cold one.

Done with games of war,
Home a last,
He came
To storied Ocean Drive,
To partner in The Spanish Galleon,
A beer joint famous
In The Land of Shag.

Harold Milton Bessent
became a giant slowly.

It took time to sell
So many cans of beer.
And then came SOS,
The saving grace of the shag.
Old beach bums by the thousands
Came to Ocean Drive to dance,
And share a cold one,
Toasting carefree times.

Harold left the Spanish Galleon
To partner in The Pad.
Across the street,
He gave another joint
His name.
The growing giant,
Rearranged his moniker,
Not to be forgotten,
Fat Harold he became.

The size he was
Could change as well,
If in a joint, you started trouble,
Then he seemed to grow
And grow and grow.

The longer he lived
The bigger he got.

The bigger the eyeglasses
He wore,
The big black frames
Were part of his face,
Framing his mischievous eyes.

His eyes were also shrewd,
Observant.
His word was his bond
By all reports.

You could take or leave
His final judgement.
To change his mind,
You had to bring a hammer.

And then
You'd better have packed your lunch.
The odds were
Harold would eat it for you.
But a softer touch
You never needed,

If Harold's heart
Was open to you.

His heart
Was really the giant part,
Big enough
To throw a party in
The Land of Shag,
For all the dancers in it.

Fat Harold's Beach Club
Became the giant's final castle.
He filled it with friends,
And pictures of friends,
With music, drink, and dancing.

The door,
Of course, the front,
Had to be a giant jukebox.

On given nights,
The crowd would be so thick,
It seemed to have one body,
A giant with many
Many dancing feet,
Fat Harold's big best friend,
Him the star at the end of the bar,
Brightest in the territory.

He left instructions
For a private funeral,
Knowing the crowd
Would fill a stadium.

I wonder,
if on the other side,
the giant is growing still,
as here his legend will.

Beyond this life,
perhaps such giants are
a common sight.

Perhaps they gather
To dance and laugh
To celebrate a new arrival.

Announcing an elevation,
The second raising of a brother.

The noble,
Harold Milton Bessent,
Fat Harold, The Jukebox Giant.

Now among the angels,
Light on his feet as a butterfly.

-by Bo Bryan



On the Road with MARY



I hope everyone is having a nice and warm summer. I know I am and we are going to have some more great weather for several months. We traveled to a couple of great parties this year, one of which was Steppin' Out Shag Club's Annual Mardi Gras "Area" Party on March 14, 2015. Wow, this was a great party and everyone had a great time. "Rockin" Ron Russ was spinning the tunes and keeping the dance floor full all night long. Awesome raffles and door prizes made the evening a little more exciting. It was all decorated Mardi Gras style and tastefully. They had the most amazing food, buffet style. We did not walk away from this party hungry. The people in this club were all so friendly and they made you feel welcome and glad you came.



The next great party was on May 16, 2015 in Durham, NC. This was ENO Beach Shag Club's Puttin' On The Ritz "Area" Party. It was also decorated very nicely. DJ Chigger Woods kept everyone dancing all night long. They had a Dance performance by their members which was awesome. Everyone was dressed to impress. The members of this club really love to dance. Even though the air condition went out, it didn't seem to matter as everyone was still dancing and enjoying themselves so much. They served great food and were all so friendly. What a great time we had in sharing the lifestyle and talking with all our shag friends. Our hats off to a well planned party to the officers and all the members of this club.





2015 SOS Parade



Parade Talk

Someone was smiling down on us! There's no other explanation. I would have bet my last paycheck that there would be no parade that day, or at least a very wet one. I talked with a friend in Murrells Inlet about 11:00 AM and he said it was a monsoon in the inlet. I checked the radar and it was headed our way. I was feeling so bad for all the participants who had planned and worked so hard on their entries. As I walked around the staging area in the light rain, everyone was in rain gear and working anxiously to get everything ready for what we all hoped would be a 1PM start. Even with the dismal forecast there were still smiles and laughter all around, typical of the shagging lifestyle attitude.

It started around 8:30 with a sprinkle as we were having breakfast. Then a drizzle that soon turned into a light rain. Then it was back to a sprinkle, back and forth all morning long. By 12:45 (15 minutes to starting down Main St.) everything was wet and still a drizzle. Oh well I thought, we got rained on once before in the 10th anniversary parade and we still managed to have what the North Myrtle Beach Times said was our best parade ever. So since we now had experience I figured we could do it again. Plus we had no choice. We all know there is no rain date.

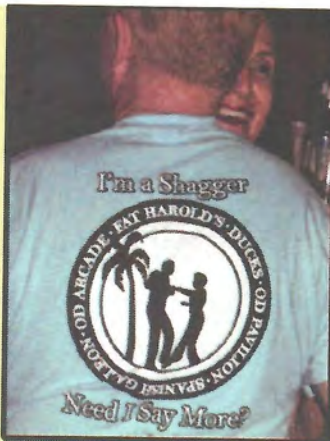
Within mere minutes after the parade reached Hillside Dr. the rain stopped. It flat stopped! I could not believe it. And it never started again until later that night. Looking back I still am amazed.

And what a great event it was. Even bigger than last year's 20th Anniversary. As I said Someone above was smiling down on us. I was reminded once again of the numerous times I have heard Dr. Phil Sawyer say... "It'll never rain on our parade". So profound are those words.

Thanks to all the clubs that participated; to our Grand Marshals Elaine Hunter Harrington of the OD Arcade; to Rick Strickland and Lesa Hudson; to our Judges Janet Harrold of the Carefree Times, Ted Bell and Stevie B. from 94.9 The Surf, to Lulu from Fat Harold's; to my Parade Crew for a job well done; and a very special thanks to all of you who braved the weather and were on the streets to witness another bad-ass parade. Hey..we'll do it again!

Don David, Your SOS Parade Chairman





SOB Spring Safari



Beaufort Shag Club



Boppers Shag Club

Thirsty's 2

Thirsty's 2 Wall of Fame Announcement Party

By Linda Reeder Photos by Max Madrin

On Saturday, May 30, 2015, Thirsty's 2 hosted their "Wall of Fame Announcement" party. The purpose of the Wall is to recognize those people who have contributed to the perpetuation of the dance and the longevity of beach music for many years in some form or another.

The Wall Committee selects those people, nominated by their peers, which meet certain criteria. If it wasn't for the Wall of Fame, some people may not ever be recognized.

The Committee proudly "announced" the following honorees for 2015:

Ben Vick, Bill Moore, Gunda Parsons, Chad Sain, Johnny Clinard, Mary Moore, Willie McFadden, Steve Carter, Deborah Stanton and William Greene

The Induction ceremonies will be held on Saturday, November 7, 2015 where these people will be honored by the current Wall members, their family and friends. All the Wall of Fame members, in their own way, have preserved their passion and their memories of the life we have come to live and love.





Rock Hill Area Shag Club's 7th Annual Hall of Fame Foundation Fundraiser with "Vegas Night Party"



The HOFF "Vegas Night" started with guests checking in at the door and getting \$10k in chips to play on professional tables (roulette, blackjack or craps) and with professional dealers. This has been one of our favorite parties among our members. The food table was full with barbecue, potato salad, slaw, baked beans, corn on the cob, rolls and of course deserts. Our club members know how to put on a spread. No one left hungry!

DJ Tommy Samole played music for those who wanted to dance or do a line dance or two. He did a great job of keeping the dancers moving! Several trays of shooters were also passed around during the evening. The gambling tables closed down at 10 pm: then it was time to start the live auction. Our club members donated many items and put together liquor baskets for the auction. The auctioneer was our very own Vice President Ronnie Jackson. He motivated the crowd to many spirited back and forth bids. Some of our members that donated the items bought back their own basket. Ken Akin and Ron Whisenant were our honored guests and spoke during the auction about the Hall of Fame Foundation and how the foundation has helped so many in need and how to apply for help.

At the end of the auction the prizes donated by our club members were drawn. The members cash in their chips for tickets for a chance to win a prize.

After all the figures were tallied for the night, we profited \$3863.37. With the \$1120 from the Winter Beach Blast raffle basket, all total for HOFF to be donated is \$4983.37!

The Ways & Means committee would like to take an opportunity to thank all those who donated their time, money and items for the party that made it a huge success. By: Gail Davis

Sponsorships for gambling tables:

Cabinet Creations, Inc.
Dr. & Mrs. Jim Jewell
Candy & Phil Long
Lauren & Marty McCauley
Alan Putnam and Sav/Way Foods
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Other sponsors for gifts:

Beach Memories
Fat Harold's
Pirate's Cove
SOS Store
RHASC Members

Ways & Means Committee

Tommy Davis (Chair) & Gail Davis
Phil & Candy Long
Max & Pansy Phillips
Frank & Harriet Price
Lauren McCauley (Social Director)



The Virginia Shaggers Hall of Fame - 2015 Inductions

The Virginia Shaggers Hall of Fame (VSHOF) was started in 1987 by original founders Fran and Jim Bingley, Bert and Kitty Novotny, George Lineberry, Vicki Keller, Martha Hoffman and Rogers Arghyris, with the purpose: "To acknowledge, honor and afford recreational pleasure for the persons who have contributed to the dance known as "Beach Swing or Shag" and continuing the practice of, and promoting the continued existence of said dance in the State of Virginia."

Since inception, one hundred and fifty-three dancers from across the Commonwealth of Virginia have been honored and currently we have one-hundred and four active members. Nomination and selection for membership is made by active members during the September-to-November time frame. We are proud to have the following in our membership: Beach Shaggers National Hall of Fame members Big George Lineberry (deceased), Berta Lull, Bobby Kellam (deceased), Ann Givens Kellam, Bert Novotny (deceased) and Kitty Novotny (deceased), and Earl Robinson; Association of Carolina Shag Clubs **Icon Award** recognition Jan Weakley, Joan Byrnes, Earl Robinson, Joe Tedesco, Sid Strawderman and Vesta Denning; and The Association of Beach & Shag Club D.J.s Hall of Fame Cliff Merritt (sadly passing on April 20, 2015). We are grateful to have these members and their contributions to our past, present and future of the VSHOF.

Our induction ceremony this year (chaired by Valerie Canada) was held on March 27-28, 2015 at the Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center in Williamsburg, Virginia and was attended by 200-plus people, dancing and partying to the music provided by Jerry Canada and Cliff Merritt, to welcome the new inductees, members and guest. The VSHOF ceremony, emceed by Steve Booth with presenters Jim Overton and Janis Grimes, inducted the following new and very worthy dancers: **Phillip Mitchell, Alan Michaelis, Charlotte Batchelor, Joyce Burnley, Allen Batchelor, Brenda Franklin, Connie McCook, and Pamela Alfano.**

This yearly event has also allowed us to contribute over \$18,000+ to Special Olympics over the years. The 2015 ceremony was our first 2-day event for the induction ceremony which included dancing (of course), dance instructions, free pours, raffles, vendors and food. Judging from the great response we received, the VSHOF Board plans to continue the event, to be held in late March, as a "2-dayer" instead of the one night dance/ceremony as in the past.

We would like to thank all inductees, guest and VSHOF members that helped to make this a great and successful honorary event.

By: Roger Elling





SOS 2015 Spring Safari





Fat Harold's Beach Club Host Living Legends Event May 15-16, 2015



Once again we were able to bring together many of the personalities and characters throughout the different eras in the earlier development of this beach area particularly interested in the music, lifestyle, and SC dance know as the shag. We are seeing more and more members and nominees "coming home" that own real estate, businesses, or primary residences in the area as they reach retirement age. Others come when they can, reliving a happy time in their memories.

Friday night was the kick off for the weekend with friends registering and visiting with friends. Tommy Hamrick was the dee jay for the weekend and kept everyone on the floor when they were not enjoying the appetizers that Jack and Lulu prepared for the party. The inductions on Saturday night began with the inductions of deceased nominees. Following, members were remembered and honored having an untimely demise before due process of the annual vote.

Closing the inductions the Living Legends for 2015 were inducted and their bio's that were written by each personally were read as they came up to accept their plaques. A few of the new members were unable to attend due to health concerns or prior commitments. Our prayers go out to the new inductees with health concerns.

Many thanks to all the committee members that volunteered for the weekend...great job as always. Everyone was glad to see that Jan Morris was able to attend. Jan has always given her all to Living Legends and it is very much appreciated. I want to thank Jan and her daughter, Lane Brafford, Lulu Rigsby, Jack Rainwater, Gary Bass, and Harold Worley for helping me plan the program for 2015.



Deceased Nominees 2015:

Randall Cutts, Ike Hill, Harold Horne, Sr.,
Freda Huffstetler, Clark Price, Mike
Roseman, Charles Saunders,
Mary Weeks, Bert Novotny

Deceased Members 2014-2015:

Douglas Dellinger, Sue Hallow, Glenda
Johnson, Bill Wingate, Dottie Hunt.

Living Legends Inductees 2015:

Chuck Bennett, Butch Metcalf, Randy
Rowland, Greg Stegall, Tommy Wood,
Kenny Hardy.

Betty Bullock, Carol Church,
Gretchen Abney, Connie Wood,
Laura Cole, Terri Cox.

By Janet Harrold
Monty Lee - Photographer

SOS

The Greatest Show On Sand

By Monica Powell , OD Shag Club

As they say in show business or maybe it was Don David, the "show" or was it the "parade" must go on even in the rain. Well, it started out as a rainy morning, but by the time we started down Main Street, the sun was peeping out from behind the clouds for the Annual SOS Parade.

This year, the OD Shag Club, decided to honor SOS as our parade theme and what better way than the greatest Show on Sand which of course, it is. I was so proud of our club and the great ideas they have for all their golf carts. Our entry started with our Band and Banner Carriers and our high stepping Ringmaster. Of course, there was the Big Top with our strongman who could lift lots of adult beverages. And what is a circus without clowns and balloon sellers!

My personal favorite was the animal carts. It reminded me of when the circus would come to town and make their way from the railroad station to the coliseum. We had elephants, hippos, monkeys, tigers and of course, being SOS, we had a cart of Party Animals. We even had a human cannonball!

If your club has not had a parade entry, I would encourage you to make 2016, your first parade. Being in the parade is fantastic, but the best part is working with various members of your club on the ideas, getting together to make plans, working on the float and/or golf carts before you ever leave home! It is a great way to get to know other club members and you find out they have hidden talents in design, building and just be downright inventive!

When we were at Fat Harold's for the Parade Award Ceremony, someone asked my how far in advance does the OD Shag Club start working on the parade ideas. I told them we would start tomorrow, the Sunday after the parade!





Check or money order made payable to D.O.I.T. Please indicate desired location for paver to be installed

Contact

Jan Harrold

P.O. Box 3303

N. Myrtle Beach, SC 29582

843/222-3276

janharrold1@sc.rr.com

Be a part of Ocean Drive Beach history! Become the proud owner of a personally inscribed "Walk of Fame" paver. Pavers have been particularly popular with visitors to the area including shag clubs and shaggers from throughout the United States. With Main Street's designation as "The Birthplace of the Shag" and with the annual S.O.S. (Society of Stranders) events and local street festivals, thousands of shaggers have already purchased pavers as you will see when you arrive on Main Street in Ocean Drive Beach.

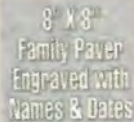
Pavers have also been popular with vacationers who find their way to North Myrtle Beach year after year and locals who want to share in the continuing growth and revitalization of Main Street in Ocean Drive Beach. In addition, they are great gifts for every occasion. With three sizes available, there is paver to fit every budget and need.

The revitalization of Main Street in North Myrtle Beach was started in the early 90's in affiliation with the City of North Myrtle Beach to help raise monies for the continued revitalization. The proceeds of the paver sales are used to continue to keep Main Street beautiful and an enjoyable place to visit.

INDIVIDUAL (4x8) - two lines of inscription with 13 spaces each line: \$100

FAMILY (8x8) - four lines of inscription with 13 spaces per line: \$200

CORPORATE (16x16) (Diamond Shape) - may be engraved with logo/inscription. An 8 1/2" x 11" black & white. Camera ready design needs to accompany order. \$600
(Inscription available with eight lines each with 26 spaces per line).



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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

NEW ADDRESS:

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

2015 SOS Spring Safari





2015 CSA Carolina Shag Classic at Ducks



Happy Days were definitely back with the 2015 CSA Carolina Shag Classic Contest held at Ducks!! Event Directors, Ashley & Tobitha Stewart and Event Coordinator, Mary Lynn Myrick were so excited to have dancers back competing at Ducks Main Street again! The Dancers put on a show, entertained the crowd and Boogied Down all weekend! Thank you To David Shaw, Kezia Sessions, and the Duck's staff for all their support in providing a first class venue, Monty Lee for capturing the memories with great pictures, Mike Rink and Peggy Nance Cavin for videoing and helping set up, Donna Rushing Hosaflook and Barbara Kiger for helping set up, our DJs Jerry M Burrage and Eddie Anderson, all our Table Sponsors, Business Sponsors, Brennar Goree and Autumn Jene'e Jones for a great workshop, Jackson Batten for being the best floor assistant ever, our Judges, our CSA contest coordinators Gene Pope and Nancy and their assistants Patricia T Joyce, and Brennar Goree, our CSA President Jessica Honbarrier Huffstetler, and our CSA Dancers and Family!!! It was soooooo good to be back at Ducks dancing and making lasting memories!!!! We are already looking forward to the 2016 CSA Carolina Shag Classic at Ducks! Thank you again from the bottom of our hearts for your support!!! By: Tobitha Stewart

Carolina Shag Classic Contest Results:



Amateur Division (12 couples)

- 1st Tommy Manibusan & Robbie Brunson
- 2nd Chad Farlow & Allie Privette
- 3rd Danny Scott & Susan Welch
- 4th Jim Childs & Linda Lawhorn
- 5th John Roberts & Hanna Turk
- 6th Larry Patterson & Shirley Weaver



Novice Division (7 couples)

- 1st Steve & Jill Woodard
- 2nd Darrell Gaither & Lani Wilcockson
- 3rd Galen & Debbie Ezzell
- 4th Bryan Renn & Kim Chance
- 5th Dennis & Darlene Brown
- 6th Mark Casey & Tracye Jackle



Senior Pro Division (8 couples)

- 1st Les & Marsha Rose
- 2nd John & Susan Leggett
- 3rd Larry Davis & JoAnn Caudle



Pro Division (6 couples)

- 1st Brennar Goree & Autumn Jones
- 2nd Scott Campbell & Nikki Kontoulas
- 3rd Ashley & Tobitha Stewart
- 4th Bill & Sheila Seymour
- 5th Joe & Lyn Honeycutt
- 6th Bruce Yates & Cameron Caruso

King of the Blues

By Foster McKinney, SOS Treasurer

He possessed a trait worthy of a king. It was trait that was not handed down by a birthright of privilege, but given as a wonderful gift from God—a profound musical talent. He accepted this gift with open arms, augmented it with an indissoluble willpower to overcome hard times, and made it his lot to sing and play the blues. Born from a bloodline of Mississippi sharecroppers, Riley B. King, better known as B.B. King, paid the dues to become one of the world's most influential and renowned bluesmen. Nicknamed "King of the Blues," he, like the masterful Louis Armstrong, had dibs on his own unique style of playing that ascended him into an elite echelon—perhaps intrinsically much richer than royalty. Bluesmen who follow him strive to emulate of his legendary style of playing guitar. His influence shows within the styles of such guitar greats as Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck, Buddy Guy, Otis Rush and even the iconic Jimi Hendrix. His powerful voice seems to croon along as if calling for the crisp, whining response of his beloved Gibson guitar he affectionately called Lucille. A special combination of style and sound bears his signature—storied lyrics sung with a powerful voice and distinctive solos that cast the guitar into a leading role as though it is a collaborative, but central, narrator of each song. He states on his official website that, "When I sing, I play in my mind; the minute I stop singing orally, I start to sing by playing Lucille."

Many have wondered why B.B. King named his famed guitar Lucille. Just who is this Lucille? There is a true story behind the name. Although cited a bit differently by other sources, B.B. King recalled in an interview with National Public Radio that it happened in the winter of 1949 while playing in a little nightclub in Twist, Arkansas, located about forty-five miles northwest of Memphis, Tennessee. He said that it often got cold at night in Twist, and the nightclub keep a fire going in what looked like a makeshift stove fashioned out of an old garbage pail—half-filled with kerosene and located in the middle of the dance floor. People would usually dance around it and never disturb it. One night, however, two men got into a fight and one pushed the other into the stove knocking it over onto the dance floor precipitating what King said, "Looked like a river of fire," that began quickly engulfing the entire building. King, along with everyone else, headed for the front door and made his way outside. Then he realized that he had left his guitar inside. So back into the burning building he went. He grabbed his guitar and barely made it out before the building began to collapse. He says he almost lost his life while trying to save his guitar. Later the next morning, he learned that the two men were fighting over a woman who worked at the nightclub. King recalled, "I never did meet the lady but I learned that her name was Lucille. So I named my guitar Lucille to remind me not to do a thing like that again."



Riley B. King got his start in 1948 when he performed on Sonny Boy Williamson's radio program that aired on KWEM out of West Memphis, Arkansas. It eventually opened the door to steady work at t

Sixteenth Avenue Grill in West Memphis, and later on to a ten-minute spot named “Kings Spot” on Memphis radio station WDIA. “King’s Spot” became so popular that it was later expanded and renamed the “Sepia Swing Club.” It was while working in radio at WDIA that he gained the catchy nickname “Beal Street Blues Boy”—later shortened to “Blues Boy” and eventually cut to simply “B.B.” In 1951, he struck pay dirt with the release of his number one hit, “Three O’Clock Blues.” He began touring nationally; then internationally. He played in venues ranging the small juke joints on the chitlin’ circuit to some of the world’s finest symphony concert halls and amphitheaters. He proved to be a phenomenal ambassador for the blues. He was inducted into the Blues Foundation Hall of Fame in 1984 and into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1987. He was awarded the National Medal of Arts in 1990 and the National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts in 1991. He was awarded the Kennedy Center Honors in 1995, given to recognize the lifelong accomplishments and extraordinary talents of our nation’s most prestigious artists. In 2006, President George W. Bush awarded him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. He has received honorary doctorates from Tougaloo(MS) College, Yale University, Berklee College of Music, Rhodes College of Memphis, Mississippi Valley State University, and Brown University. He was awarded a Grammy Lifetime Achievement award in 1987 and earned fifteen Grammys between the years 1971 and 2009.



This past May, at the age of eighty-nine, the seemingly tireless B.B. King died peacefully in his sleep. With his work on Earth done, only now will he take a well-deserved break and rest. Throughout most of his career, spanning nearly seventy years, he toured relentlessly, reportedly appearing, on average, in more than two-hundred concerts a year during the 1970s. He was a product of the Mississippi Delta, known as the home of the blues, but he was a people’s man who belonged to the world. He ventured as far from his humble beginnings as his talent and his illumination of human spirit would take him, all the while honoring his roots

by insisting that he was simply maintaining a tradition. In the 1988 book, “Off the Record: An Oral History of Popular Music,” he said, “I’ve always tried to defend the idea that the blues doesn’t have to be sung by a person who comes from Mississippi, as I did ... People all over the world have problems. And as long as people have problems, the blues can never die.” He further insisted in a CNN interview, “To me blues is a type of music that is like a tonic. It’s good for whatever ails you.”

B.B. King has given us shaggers plenty of great songs to boogie to—such classics as “Paying the Cost to Be the Boss,” “How Blue Can You Get,” “Everyday I Have the Blues,” and “Why I Sing the Blues,” but the granddaddy of them all is by far “The Thrill is Gone.” Losing B.B. King is perhaps summed-up best in a letter from President Barack Obama read aloud in part by U.S. Congressman Bennie Thompson at King’s funeral, “B.B. may be gone, but that thrill will be with us forever. And there’s going to be one killer blues session in heaven tonight.”

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Summer 2015

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As you can imagine, keeping the roster for the association is a monumental task. Please send all updates to:
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This will insure that your club information will be correct.

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